

**Amherst Budget Coordinating Group**  
**Summary Points – March 4, 2010**

At our March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, the members of the Budget Coordinating Group agreed that the following points would be conveyed to our home boards and committees:

- That key explanatory documents including: the most recent restoration lists; the chart detailing how much the override would cost owners of property at various assessed values; the BCG's recommendation to the Select Board; the ballot language; useful Department of Revenue information; and other relevant materials to help inform voters, will be compiled and added to a new Override section on the FY11 Budget Process page on the Town web site. There will also be links to the Schools' and Libraries' budget pages.
- That the BCG reaffirmed its shared understanding of and support for the intentions detailed in two summary points from the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, reprinted here:
  - That to ensure mutual understanding, we restated and reaffirmed our recommendation that should any of the significant remaining uncertainties (COLA negotiations, State aid, recommended restorations totaling less than current estimates) swing positive, we would not tax to the levy limit allowed by a successful override in those amounts.
  - That there is commitment from the professional budget officials to not seek restorations in excess of the current recommended dollar amounts (or such amounts adjusted downward, per the point above,) though the specifics and prioritization of those restorations by the Schools will continue to be determined. The prioritized lists have been a tool to help us determine the size and scope of needed restorations; we recognize the necessity of flexibility to allow for responsible management of Town, School and Library programs and budgets.
- That we will meet again after the election, on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m., to consider next steps and the timeline leading up to Town Meeting.